

valley as far as Cedar Creek. On the night of the 18th the Fifty-seventh Regiment formed a part of the force which crossed the mountains and fording the Shenandoah river, attacked General Sheridan's forces in the rear. Seldom in the annals of war has there been witnessed such vicissitudes of fortune as befell these armies that day. By 8 o'clock the Confederate forces had captured the entire camp equipage of that army, twenty-four pieces of artillery and a large number of prisoners, but by 9 o'clock that night the tide had so completely changed that the Confederate forces were again in full retreat up the Valley. It has been many times recorded that General Robert D. Johnston's Brigade of North Carolinians was the largest body of Confederate troops that retired from its position on that field of battle in good order. Beside this noble brigade stood the Fifty-seventh Regiment, which was next in line, and this regiment came off with Johnston's Brigade in like good order and with great steadiness. This closed the fighting in the Valley and the Fifty-seventh Regiment with the rest of the brigade, was sent to Petersburg and stationed on our extreme right at Hatcher's Run. Here it participated in what is known as the "Fight at Hatcher's Run," and there it saw much hard service, the ground being covered with snow and ice. After this it was sent to a position immediately in front of Petersburg.

COLONEL JONES TAKES COMMAND.

At this point before Petersburg, in the month of February, 1865, the writer, having been exchanged, took command of the Fifty-seventh Regiment as Colonel. He found the regiment in command of Captain Philip Carpenter, of Lincoln county, Captain Beard being absent on some detached service. The brigade was under command of General Gaston Lewis, who had been temporarily assigned to the command of it. On 25 March, about 3 o'clock in the morning, the writer was summoned to General Walker's headquarters—or to General Lewis'. There he found General Walker, General Robert D. Johnston, General Matt. W. Ransom and, he thinks, General Gordon also. He was informed